

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00808 052204Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

USPS-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SCS-03 /051 W

----- 035032

R 052109Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5820

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 0808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: PUBLIC SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN DEADLOCKED

REF: OTTAWA 571 AND 630

1. UNRESOLVED LABOR DISPUTES IN PUBLIC SECTOR HAVE
TURNED INTO TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN GOC AND TRADE UNIONS
AND HAVE SUBJECTED GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUING CRITICISM
BY OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT.

2. IN TWO DEADLOCKED BUT SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS, NAMELY
MINT WORKERS (NOW IN ARBITRATION AFTER EIGHT-WEEK STRIKE)
AND GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES GROUP (WHICH IS CONTINUING
ROTATING STRIKES BEGUN FEB 17), GOC FOLLOWED WAGE
GUIDELINES FOR PRESENT AND UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS OF
ABOUT 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIRST YEAR AND 10 PERCENT
IN FINAL YEAR OF TWO-YEAR CONTRACTS. IN PARLIAMENTARY
CONFRONTATION CABINET MINISTERS DEFENDED LEVEL OF OFFERS
AS TOTALLY ADEQUATE AND CAUTIONED THAT GOC INTENDS
TO BE "GOOD EMPLOYER" BUT NO PACESETTER FOR HIGHER
SETTLEMENTS.

3. ON UNION SIDE SIMILAR COORDINATION OF WAGE DEMANDS
IS APPARENT. BOTH GROUPS, AFFILIATED WITH POWERFUL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00808 052204Z

AND INCREASINGLY MILITANT PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE

OF CANADA ARE SEEKING APPROXIMATELY 21 PERCENT FOLLOWED BY 12 TO 14 PERCENT RAISE IN TWO-YEAR CONTRACTS. AS NOTED IN EMBASSY'S ANNUAL LABOR REPORT (A-62, FEB 3, 1975) THE 21-22 PERCENT ONE-YEAR SETTLEMENTS NEGOTIATED LAST DECEMBER IN RAILROADS AND ONTARIO CIVIL SERVICE ARE USED AS PATTERNS FOR UNION NEGOTIATORS. IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION PARTY PRESSURES GOC INSISTS THAT IT WILL PROSECUTE ANY OF THE 3,600 STRIKERS WHO ARE ON "ESSENTIAL SERVICES" LIST (A RATHER INEFFECTIVE WEAPON SINCE FINES ARE LOW AND FREQUENTLY STATUTE OF LIMITATION EXPIRES BEFORE CASE COMES TO TRIAL) AND THAT TREASURY BOARD IS PREPARED TO RESUME MEDIATION AT ANY TIME. GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES NEGOTIATORS ARE STALLING ON REOPENING MEDIATION TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF ARBITRATION IN MINT WORKERS DISPUTE.

4. ASIDE FROM SERIOUS INTERRUPTION OF WEST COAST GRAIN SHIPMENTS EVEN PRIOR TO LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE (SEE VANCOUVER 0178) SOME AIRPORT TIE-UPS AND MAIL INTERRUPTION, STRIKE HAS HAD NO MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT, BUT EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT MIGHT WELL BE INFLATION FEEDING TREND-SETTER FOR MANY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ON HORIZON. SYMPTOMATIC IS LETTER CARRIERS UNION POSITION OF ACCEPTING NO LESS THAN GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES GROUP WILL OBTAIN (PLUS NEW JOB SECURITY PROVISIONS RELATING TO TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT) WHEN ITS NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE A FEW WEEKS HENCE. PORTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA00808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0085
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750380/aaaacujg.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OTTAWA 571, 75 AND 630
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN DEADLOCKED
TAGS: ELAB, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006